

the lidocaine of the mixture being present in a concentration of about 0.3% by weight of the composition; wherein the sterile, stable injectable soft tissue filler composition is made by a process comprising:
providing the soluble form HA and crosslinked HA; 5
adjusting the pH of the soluble form HA and crosslinked HA to an adjusted pH above about 7.2;
adding a solution containing lidocaine to the soluble form HA and crosslinked HA having the adjusted pH to obtain a HA-based injectable soft tissue filler 10 composition; and
heat sterilizing the HA-based injectable soft tissue filler composition to obtain the sterile, stable injectable soft tissue filler composition.

26. The soft tissue filler composition of claim **25**, wherein 15
the soluble form HA is present in an amount of about 10% to about 20% by volume.

27. The soft tissue filler composition of claim **25**, wherein the adjusted pH is above about 7.5.

28. The soft tissue filler composition of claim **25**, wherein 20
the step of providing the HA crosslinked with BDDE comprises the steps of providing dry uncrosslinked NaHA material and hydrating the dry uncrosslinked NaHA material in an alkaline solution to obtain an alkaline, uncrosslinked NaHA gel. 25

29. The soft tissue filler composition of claim **28**, wherein the alkaline uncrosslinked NaHA gel has a pH greater than about 8.0.

30. The soft tissue filler composition of claim **28**, wherein the alkaline uncrosslinked NaHA gel has a pH greater than 30
about 10.0.

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